



# Prep Academy

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## **Sending money home**

**A** Every year millions of migrants travel vast distances using borrowed money for their airfares and taking little or no cash with them. They seek a decent job to support themselves with money left over that they can send home to their families in developing countries. These remittances exceeded \$400 billion last year. It is true that the actual rate per person is only about \$200 per month but it all adds up to about triple the amount officially spent on development aid.

**B** In some of the poorer, unstable or conflict-torn countries, these sums of money are a lifeline – the only salvation for those left behind. The decision to send money home is often inspired by altruism – an unselfish desire to help others. Then again, the cash might simply be an exchange for earlier services rendered by the recipients or it could be intended for investment by the recipients. Often it will be repayment of a loan used to finance the migrant's travel and resettlement.

**C** At the first sign of trouble, political or financial upheaval, these personal sources of support do not suddenly dry up like official investment monies. Actually, they increase in order to ease the hardship and suffering of the migrants' families and, unlike development aid, which is channelled through government or other official agencies, remittances go straight to those in need. Thus, they serve an insurance role, responding in a countercyclical way to political and economic crises.

**D** This flow of migrant money has a huge economic and social impact on the receiving countries. It provides cash for food, housing and necessities. It funds education and healthcare and contributes towards the upkeep of the elderly. Extra money is sent for special events such as weddings, funerals or urgent medical procedures and other emergencies. Occasionally it becomes the capital for starting up a small enterprise.

**E** Unfortunately, recipients hardly ever receive the full value of the money sent back home because of exorbitant transfer fees. Many money transfer companies and banks operate on a fixed fee, which is unduly harsh for those sending small sums at a time. Others charge a percentage, which varies from around 8% to 20% or more dependent on the recipient country. There are some countries where there is a low fixed charge per transaction; however, these cheaper fees are not applied internationally because of widespread concern over money laundering. Whether this is a genuine fear or just an excuse is hard to say. If the recipients live in a small village somewhere, usually the only option is to obtain their money through the local post office. Regrettably, many governments allow post offices to have an exclusive affiliation with one particular money transfer operator so there is no alternative but to pay the extortionate charge.

**F** The sums of money being discussed here might seem negligible on an individual basis but they are substantial in totality. If the transfer cost could be reduced to no more than one per cent, that would release another \$30 billion dollars annually – approximately the total aid budget of the USA, the largest donor worldwide – directly into the hands of the world's poorest. If this is not practicable, governments could at least acknowledge that small remittances do not come from organised crime networks,

and ease regulations accordingly. They should put an end to restrictive alliances between post offices and money transfer operators or at least open up the system to competition. Alternately, a non-government humanitarian organisation, which would have the expertise to navigate the elaborate red tape, could set up a non-profit remittance platform for migrants to send money home for little or no cost.

**G** Whilst contemplating the best system for transmission of migrant earnings to the home country, one should consider the fact that migrants often manage to save reasonable amounts of money in their adopted country. More often than not, that money is in the form of bank deposits earning a tiny percentage of interest, none at all or even a negative rate of interest.

**H** If a developing country or a large charitable society could sell bonds with a guaranteed return of three or four per cent on the premise that the invested money would be used to build infrastructure in that country, there would be a twofold benefit. Migrants would make a financial gain and see their savings put to work in the development of their country of origin. The ideal point of sale for these bonds would be the channel used for money transfers so that, when migrants show up to make their monthly remittance, they could buy bonds as well. Advancing the idea one step further, why not make this transmission hub the conduit for affluent migrants to donate to worthy causes in their homeland so they may share their prosperity with their compatriots on a larger scale?

### **SECTION 1 Questions 1–13**

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 1–13**, which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.

Questions 1–7

Reading Passage 1 has seven paragraphs, **A–G**.

Choose the correct heading for paragraphs **B–H** from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number, i–x, in boxes 1–7 on your answer sheet.

#### **List of Headings**

- i** Stability of remittances in difficult times
- ii** Effect of cutback in transaction fees
- iii** Targeted investments and contributions
- iv** Remittances for business investment
- v** How to lower transmission fees
- vi** Motivations behind remittances
- vii** Losses incurred during transmission
- viii** Remittances worth more than official aid
- ix** How recipients utilise remittances
- x** Frequency and size of remittances
- xi** Poor returns on migrant savings

**Example:**

Paragraph **G xi**

- 1 Paragraph **A**
- 2 Paragraph **B**
- 3 Paragraph **C**
- 4 Paragraph **D**
- 5 Paragraph **E**
- 6 Paragraph **F**
- 7 Paragraph **H**

**Questions 8–13**

Complete the summary below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 8–13 on your answer sheet.

Countries are unwilling to enforce lower transaction fees as they are worried about **8** ....., and villagers lose out when post offices have a special relationship with one particular money transfer agency.

Each remittance might be small but the total cost of remittance fees is huge.

Governments

should **9** ..... on small amounts and end the current post office system or make it more competitive. Another idea would be for a large non-profit association, capable of handling complicated **10** ..... to take charge of migrant remittances.

Migrants who send money home are able to save money, too, but it receives little or no interest from **11** ..... If a country or organisation sold bonds that earned a reasonable rate of interest for the investor, that money could fund the development of homeland **12** ..... The bonds could be sold at the remittance centre, which could also take donations from **13** ..... to fund charitable projects in their home country.

## ANSWERS

- 1 x
- 2 vi
- 3 i
- 4 ix
- 5 vii
- 6 v
- 7 iii
- 8 money laundering
- 9 ease regulations
- 10 red tape
- 11 bank deposits/the bank/a bank
- 12 infrastructure
- 13 affluent migrants

# The Discovery of Penicillin

**A** The Scottish bacteriologist Dr Alexander Fleming (1881-1955) is credited with the discovery of penicillin in London in 1928. He had been working at St Mary's Hospital on the bacteriology of septic wounds. As a medic during World War I, he had witnessed the deaths of many wounded soldiers from infection and he had observed that the use of harsh antiseptics, rather than healing the body, actually harmed the blood corpuscles that destroy bacteria.

**B** In his search for effective antimicrobial agents, Fleming was cultivating staphylococcus bacteria in Petri dishes containing agar. Before going on holiday in the summer of 1928, he piled up the agar plates to make room for someone else to use his workbench in his absence and left the windows open. When he returned to work two weeks later, Fleming noticed mould growing on those culture plates that had not been fully immersed in sterilising agent. This was not an unusual phenomenon, except in this case the particular mould seemed to have killed the staphylococcus aureus immediately surrounding it. He realised that this mould had potential.

**C** Fleming consulted a mycologist called C J La Touche, who occupied a laboratory downstairs containing many mould specimens (possibly the source of the original contamination), and they concluded it was the *Penicillium* genus of ascomycetous fungi. Fleming continued to experiment with the mould on other pathogenic bacteria, finding that it successfully killed a large number of them. Importantly, it was also non-toxic, so here was a bacteria-destroying agent that could be used as an antiseptic in wounds without damaging the human body. However, he was unsuccessful in his attempts to isolate the active antibacterial element, which he called penicillin. In 1929, he wrote a paper on his findings, published in the British Journal of Experimental Pathology, but it failed to kindle any interest at the time.

**D** In 1938, Dr Howard Florey, a professor of pathology at Oxford University, came across Fleming's paper. In collaboration with his colleague Dr Ernst Chain, and other skilled chemists, he worked on producing a usable drug. They experimented on mice infected with streptococcus. Those untreated died, while those injected with penicillin survived. It was time to test the drug on humans but they could not produce enough – it took 2,000 litres of mould culture fluid to acquire enough penicillin to treat a single patient. Their first case in 1940, an Oxford police officer who was near death as a result of infection by both staphylococci and streptococci, rallied after five days of treatment but, when the supply of penicillin ran out, he eventually died.

**E** In 1941, Florey and biochemist Dr Norman Heatley went to the United States to team up with American scientists with a view to finding a way of making large quantities of the drug. It became obvious that *Penicillium notatum* would never generate enough penicillin for effective treatments so they began to look for a more productive species. One day a laboratory assistant turned up with a melon covered in mould. This fungus was *Penicillium chrysogenum*, which produced 200 times more penicillin than Fleming's original species but, with further enhancement and filtration,

it was induced to yield 1,000 times as much as *Penicillium notatum*. Manufacture could begin in earnest.

**F** The standardisation and large-scale production of the penicillin drug during World War II and its availability for treating wounded soldiers undoubtedly saved many lives. Penicillin proved to be very effective in the treatment of pneumococcal pneumonia – the death rate in WWII was 1% compared to 18% in WWI. It has since proved its worth in the treatment of many life-threatening infections such as tuberculosis, meningitis, diphtheria and several sexually-transmitted diseases.

**G** Fleming has always been acknowledged as the discoverer of penicillin. However, the development of a commercial penicillin drug was due to the skill of chemical scientists Florey, Chain and others who overcame the difficulties of converting it into a usable form. Fleming and Florey received knighthoods in 1944 and they, together with Chain, were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1945. Heatley's contribution seems to have been overlooked until, in 1990, he was awarded an honorary doctorate of medicine by Oxford University – the first in its 800-year history.

**H** Fleming was mindful of the dangers of resistance to penicillin early on and he expressly warned on many occasions against overuse of the drug, because this would lead to bacterial resistance. Ironically, the occurrence of resistance is pushing the drive today to find new, more powerful antibiotics.

### Questions 1–6

*Reading Passage 1 has eight paragraphs, A–H.*

*Which paragraph contains the following information?*

*Write the correct letter, A–H, in boxes 1–6 on your answer sheet.*

- 1 results of animal experiments
- 2 recognition of the scientists' valuable work
- 3 a statement about the beginning of mass production
- 4 Fleming's cautionary advice
- 5 examples of uses for penicillin
- 6 the starting point for Fleming's original research



### Questions 7–10

*Complete the summary below.*

*Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.*

*Write your answers in boxes 7–10 on your answer sheet.*

### Dr Fleming's Accidental Discovery

In a bid to find a safe and effective antiseptic, Dr Fleming was growing staphylococcus aureus bacteria in his lab. On his return from **7** ....., he found mould on an unsterilised plate and saw that it had destroyed the bacteria around it. A **8** ..... helped him identify the mould. Fleming found that it was active against several different **9** ..... and, because it was **10** ....., it was safe to use in humans.

### Questions 11–13

*Complete the table below.*

*Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.*

*Write your answers in boxes 11–13 on your answer sheet*

### Timeline

1928 Fleming's discovery of penicillin  
1929 Fleming's research published  
1938 Florey begins work on penicillin  
1940 The first human subject **11** .....  
1941 Collaboration with **12** .....  
1944 Two of the scientists are knighted  
1945 Three of them share a **13** .....  
1990 Heatley's work is acknowledged

## **ANSWERS**

**1** D

**2** G

**3** E

**4** H

**5** F

**6** B

**7** holiday

**8** mycologist

**9** (pathogenic) bacteria

**10** non-toxic

**11** (eventually) died

**12** American scientists

**13** Nobel Prize

***“For the strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack.”***

*– Rudyard Kipling, The Law for the Wolves*

A wolf pack is an extremely well-organised family group with a well-defined social structure and a clear-cut code of conduct. Every wolf has a certain place and function within the pack and every member has to do its fair share of the work. The supreme leader is a very experienced wolf – the alpha – who has dominance over the whole pack. It is the protector and decision-maker and directs the others as to where, when and what to hunt. However, it does not lead the pack into the hunt, for it is far too valuable to risk being injured or killed. That is the responsibility of the beta wolf, who assumes second place in the hierarchy of the pack. The beta takes on the role of enforcer – fighter or ‘tough guy’ – big, strong and very aggressive. It is both the disciplinarian of the pack and the alpha’s bodyguard.

The tester, a watchful and distrustful character, will alert the alpha if it encounters anything suspicious while it is scouting around looking for signs of trouble. It is also the quality controller, ensuring that the others are deserving of their place in the pack. It does this by creating a situation that tests their bravery and courage, by starting a fight, for instance. At the bottom of the social ladder is the omega wolf, subordinate and submissive to all the others, but often playing the role of peacemaker by intervening in an intra-pack squabble and defusing the situation by clowning around. Whereas the tester may create conflict, the omega is more likely to resolve it.

The rest of the pack is made up of mid- to low-ranking non-breeding adults and the immature offspring of the alpha and its mate. The size of the group varies from around six to ten members or more, depending on the abundance of food and numbers of the wolf population in general.

Wolves have earned themselves an undeserved reputation for being ruthless predators and a danger to humans and livestock. The wolf has been portrayed in fairy tales and folklore as a very bad creature, killing any people and other animals it encounters. However, the truth is that wolves only kill to eat, never kill more than they need, and rarely attack humans unless their safety is threatened in some way. It has been suggested that hybrid wolf-dogs or wolves suffering from rabies are actually responsible for many of the historical offences as well as more recent incidents.

Wolves hunt mainly at night. They usually seek out large herbivores, such as deer, although they also eat smaller animals, such as beavers, hares and rodents, if these are obtainable. Some wolves in western Canada are known to fish for salmon. The alpha wolf picks out a specific animal in a large herd by the scent it leaves behind. The prey is often a very young, old or injured animal in poor condition. The alpha signals to its hunters which animal to take down and when to strike by using tail movements and the scent from a gland at the tip of its spine above the tail.

Wolves kill to survive. Obviously, they need to eat to maintain strength and health but the way they feast on the prey also reinforces social order. Every member of the family has a designated spot at the carcass and the alpha directs them to their places through various ear postures: moving an ear forward, flattening it back against the head or swivelling it around. The alpha wolf eats the prized internal organs while the

beta is entitled to the muscle-meat of the rump and thigh, and the omega and other low ranks are assigned the intestinal contents and less desirable parts such as the backbone and ribs.

The rigid class structure in a wolf pack entails frequent displays of supremacy and respect. When a higher-ranking wolf approaches, a lesser-ranking wolf must slow down, lower itself, and pass to the side with head averted to show deference; or, in an extreme act of passive submission, it may roll onto its back, exposing its throat and belly. The dominant wolf stands over it, stiff-legged and tall, asserting its superiority and its authority in the pack.

### **Questions 1–6**

*Classify the following statements as referring to*

**A** the alpha wolf

**B** the beta wolf

**C** the tester wolf

**D** the omega wolf

Write the correct letter, **A, B, C or D** in boxes 1–6 on your answer sheet.

**NB** You may use any letter more than once.

- 1** It is at the forefront of the pack when it makes a kill.
- 2** It tries to calm tensions and settle disputes between pack members.
- 3** It is the wolf in charge and maintains control over the pack.
- 4** It warns the leader of potential danger.
- 5** It protects the leader of the pack.
- 6** It sets up a trial to determine whether a wolf is worthy of its status in the pack.

### **Questions 7–13**

*Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1?*

*In boxes 7–13 on your answer sheet, write*

**TRUE** if the statement agrees with the information

**FALSE** if the statement contradicts the information

**NOT GIVEN** if there is no information on this

- 7** Wolves are a constant danger to humans.
- 8** Crossbred wolves or sick wolves are most likely to blame for attacks on people.
- 9** Canadian wolves prefer to eat fish, namely salmon.
- 10** The wolf pack leader identifies a particular target for attack by its smell.
- 11** When wolves attack a herd, they go after the healthiest animal.
- 12** The piece of a dead animal that a wolf may eat depends on its status in the pack.
- 13** A low-ranking wolf must show submission or the dominant wolf will attack it.

**ANSWERS:**

**1 B**

**2 D**

**3 A**

**4 C**

**5 B**

**6 C**

**7 FALSE**

**8 TRUE**

**9 NOT GIVEN**

**10 TRUE**

**11 FALSE**

**12 TRUE**

**13 NOT GIVEN**

## IELTS LISTENING SECTION 1 – TEST 1 – READINGIELTS

**Harry's Hire Company**

Example

**Hire for:** birthday party

### Equipment Hire:

**Day and date of event:** 1 ..... November

**Number attending event:** 2 .....

5 dozen dinner plates, bowls

5 dozen sets of 3 ..... and .....

**Rental:**

40 plastic 4 .....

4 dozen each small / medium glasses

six 5 .....

## IELTS LISTENING SECTION 1 – TEST 1 - READINGIELTS\_2

### Costings:

**Weekend Package:** 5 p.m. Fri – 10 a.m. Mon: \$1600 + tax

**6** ..... **Package:** 5 p.m. Sat – 10 a.m. Mon: \$1350 + tax

**7** .....: **\$50** (within 10 km)

**Breakage Insurance:** **\$60**

plates, bowls – \$3.55 per item

**Replacement costs:** small glasses – **8** ..... per item

medium glasses – \$4.40 per item

### Customer Details:

**Full name:** 9 .....

**Address:** 28B Sandstone Close, Martinsborough

**Contact number:** 10. 084 .....

## Answers

- 1** Saturday 25th / 25
- 2** 55 / fifty-five / fifty five
- 3** knives / forks
- 4** (garden) chairs
- 5** ice buckets
- 6** same-day / same Day
- 7** home delivery
- 8** \$3.50 / three dollars fifty
- 9** Susan Millins
- 10** 3987695

## IELTS LISTENING SECTION 1 – TEST 2 – READINGIELTS

Complete the notes below.

Write **NO MORE THAN ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer

### Second-hand Bedroom Furniture for Sale

*Example*

*Answer*

Number of items for sale: three

#### **Bedside tables**

Construction: wood

Colour: 1 .....

Drawers: two (in each table)

handles made of 2 .....

Height: 3 ..... cm

Condition: 4 .....

Price: 5 ..... (for both)



### Questions 6–10

*Complete the notes below.*

*Write **NO MORE THAN ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.*

#### **Dressing table**

Drawers: five (two are **6** .....)

Width: **7** .....

Mirrors: three: one large, two small (all  
**8** .....)

Condition: good

Price: **9** .....

#### **Seller's details**

Name: Carolyn Kline

Address: **19 10** ..... Road

## Answers

1. cream
2. brass
3. 65 / sixty-five
4. perfect
5. £30 / 30 pounds / thirty pounds
6. deep
7. 1.25 metres / 1.25 m
8. adjustable
9. £50 / 50 pounds / fifty pounds
10. Domain

# IELTS LISTENING SECTION 1 – TEST 3 – READINGIELTS

## BUYING A USED CAR

Example	Answer
Name of caller	<i>Peter Smith</i>

### Vehicle Details:

- Vehicle for sale: 2012 Toyota sedan
- Vehicle colour: **1** .....
- Condition of vehicle: original **2** .....
  - no scratches
  - no dents
  - engine: no problems, regular servicing
- Ownership: one driver, old lady  
**3** .....
- Tyres: back tyres: worn  
front tyres: **4** .....
- Extras: air conditioning  
**5** .....  
power steering, central locking, ABS brakes  
manual transmission  
tow bar – useful for Peter's **6** .....
- Mileage: **7** ..... km

## IELTS LISTENING SECTION 1 – TEST 3 - READINGIELTS\_2

### Meeting Arrangements

- Tina's address: 8 352 .....
- Time of appointment: 9 ..... today
- Peter's phone number: 10 045 -.....

## **ANSWERS**

- 1** silver
- 2** paint
- 3** two / 2 owners
- 4** new
- 5** stereo
- 6** bike / bicycle
- 7** 50,000 / fifty thousand
- 8** Hunter Place
- 9** 4.30 / four thirty / pm / p.m.
- 10** 352 7652

## IELTS LISTENING SECTION 1 – TEST 4 – READINGIELTS

Example                      Answer

Number of items for sale: **three**

### Bedside tables

Construction: wood

Colour:        **1** .....

Drawers:       two (in each table)  
                 handles made of **2** .....

Height:        **3** ..... cm

Condition:    **4** .....

Price:          **5** ..... (for both)

## IELTS LISTENING SECTION 1 – TEST 4 - READINGIELTS\_2

### Dressing table

Drawers:       five (two are **6** .....) )

Width:         **7** .....

Mirrors:       three: one large, two small (all  
                 **8** ..... )

Condition:    good

Price:          **9** .....

### Seller's details

Name:          Carolyn Kline

Address:       19 **10** ..... Road

## Answers

1. cream
2. brass
3. 65 / sixty-five
4. perfect
5. £30 / 30 pounds / thirty pounds
6. deep
7. 1.25 metres / 1.25 m
8. adjustable
9. £50 / 50 pounds / fifty pounds
10. Domain